(a) what is the percentage of total outlays of Railways being spent on passenger amenities:

(b) the details of various schemes to increase passenger amenities under implementation by the Railways;

(c) whether Government are reconsidering its decision to increase compartments to general passengers and also allow these passengers in sleeper coaches during day time;

(d) what are the facilities being provided by the Railway on the model Railway Stations;

(e) whether any machinery exist to ensure that these facilities are really provided to the passengers; and

(f) if so, the details thereof '?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K.. JAFFER SHAR1EF) : (a) to (f) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Book Stalls at Railway Stations

1236. DR. YELAMANCHJLI SIVAJI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of book/news stalls run on Railway platforms by M/s. A.H. Wheeler as well as M/s. Higgin-bothoms in the country; and

(b) what are the terms and conditions ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K..C. LENKA) : (a) As per information furnished by Zonal Railways, M/s. A.H. wheeler and Co. and M/s. Higgin-bothonii are managing, at present, 370 and 59 bookstalls, respectively on Railways.

(b) Terms and conditions are governed by various clauses of the agreements entered with the above said bookstall contractors, including that of payment of royalty @ 3% of their annual sales turnover, tenure of contract being 9 years, sole selling right allowed on stations/ platforms constructed before 31-12-1975, issue of selected passes, etc.

Connecting Ludhiana with Chandigarh by Rail Line

1237. SHRI VIRENDRA K.ATARIA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal for connecting Ludhiana with Chandigarh; if so, what is the present position of this proposal;

(b) whether it is a fact that Punjab Government is pressing hard for connecting Chandigarh with the rest of Punjab;

(c) whether surveys have been done in this connection and if so, what is the latest position in this regard; and

(d) when Government propose to meet this long standing demand of Punjab as Punjab has returned to normalcy and people are awaiting action by Government to fulfil their long standing demand ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI KC. LENKA) : (a) Updating of survey of Rajpura-Chandigarh New Line has been included in the Railway Budget for 1993-94.

(b) Yes. Sir.

(c) Survey for Ludhidna-Chandi-garh line (95 kms.) was carried out in 1973. The cost of this new BG line